

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING 26 FEDERAL PLAZA NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Integrated Hurricane Sandy General Reevaluation Report/Environmental Assessment for the Passaic Tidal Protection Area Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District), is currently conducting a Hurricane Sandy General Reevaluation of the tidally-influenced and surge-prone areas in the lower Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, and Newark Bay, New Jersey that were included in the authorized Passaic Main Stem project for potential coastal storm risk management measures for those areas. The non-Federal project partner for the study and project implementation is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). With the passage of Public Law 113-2, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, the Army Corps has been provided the authority and funding to complete ongoing coastal storm risk management projects and studies in the Northeast, including this project.

Purpose: The Army Corps has evaluated and prepared a Draft Integrated Hurricane Sandy General Reevaluation Report/Environmental Assessment (EA) (including a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact {FONSI}) for the currently authorized, but unconstructed project within the tidally affected area within the Lower Passaic River Basin. A 1987 General Design Memorandum (GDM) and 1995 GDM presented preliminary designs for the original project. In the 20 years since the 1995 GDM was drafted, study area conditions have changed, and engineering standards and criteria have been updated based on lessons learned from major storm events. This Draft HSGRR/EA has been prepared to document the formulation and evaluation of plans to address coastal storm risk management in the Lower Passaic River Basin and the significance of potential environmental impacts of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) recommended in the report. The report and associated documents are available on New York District's web site at: http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-Jersey/Passaic-Tidal-Protection-Area/.

Written comments on the Draft HSGRR/EA should be submitted to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District Planning Division-Environmental Analysis Branch (Attn: Mr. Matthew Voisine) 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278-0090

Public Comments can also be submitted by email to Mr. Voisine at Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil. Comments can be submitted through October 29, 2017.

Comments submitted will assist in the agency's evaluation of the project changes and will be reflected in the project record. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers' Internet website. Due to resource limitations, this office generally cannot acknowledge receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comments.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project.